

Abstract of the Disclosure

A knife having a blade tip configuration that reduces incisional force by providing a more efficient distribution of tissue piercing and cutting forces over the cutting edges.

The distal tip of the blade has a profile in plan view in the region of approximately 150

5 microns from the distal most point of the tip that may be described by the equation $w =$

ad^n , where w is the distance from the blade's longitudinal axis to the blade's cutting edge, a is a constant of proportionality not greater than 0.5 and d is the distance along the blade's

longitudinal axis from the extreme distal point of the blade tip. The extreme distal point of the tip has a slightly rounded, rather than pointy, profile, with a tip radius of

10 approximately 40 microns or less.